

Ranger Tugs 25

Ranger's new 25-foot cruiser can take you anywhere you want to go.

BY JOHN CLEMANS



One of our customers has cruised from Washington to Alaska and back, another is doing the Great Loop," said Jeff Messmer, vice president of sales and marketing for Ranger Tugs. Both boats must be in at least the 40-foot range, right? Wrong. They're 24 feet 7 inches long and trailerable at 8 feet 6 inches wide, with cockpits to relax in after dinner or to fish from.

The Ranger Tugs R25 is one of those boats that belies its true size when you're aboard. Even the equipment list of the one I tested at the Miami Boat Show seemed out of whack with the specs: bow thruster; stern thruster; midcabin; 16,000-Btu, reverse-cycle air conditioner; generator; remote spotlight; radar; radar reflector (in the false smokestack); autopilot and Strataglass enclosure.

You might call it the world's smallest ship, but the most accurate description takes only three letters: fun. That's the word I heard most often from the constant crowd gathered on the dock in Miami to admire the jaunty little tug. But it's certainly

no toy. Its cockpit is self-bailing, it sleeps five and the Lewmar windlass can be controlled from the bow or the helm — which has enough space for a Raymarine C-120 plotter, thanks to the compact SmartCraft digital instrumentation.

The roominess of the interior is enhanced not only by large windows but also by clever use of every cubic inch. The companion bench's backrest swings forward to serve the dinette. The helm seat flips forward to reveal extra counter space. A cockpit shower materializes when the head's shower hose is passed through the bulkhead's brass port-hole. There's no end to the versatility of the R25. Having toured and tested it, I say, "All aboard for Alaska." ♦



FINE VIEW. Big windows surround dinette.

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 24'7"
Beam: 8'6"
Draft: 2'2"
Disp.: 5,750 lbs.
Transom Deadrise: 12.5 degrees
Fuel: 75 gals.
Water: 30 gals.
Contact: Ranger Tugs rangertugs.com
Base Price (w/test power): \$128,000

PERFORMANCE

TEST POWER: (1) 150 hp Cummins 2.0 QSD diesel engine. Speeds measured by GPS in Biscayne Bay, Miami, with five adults aboard, half fuel and half water. Sound levels measured at the helm in dB-A.

RPM	KNOTS	GPH	DB-A
1,200	5.3	0.7	66
1,500	6.2	1.0	67
1,800	7.1	1.4	67
2,100	7.8	1.9	70
2,400	8.6	2.6	74
2,700	9.8	3.8	74
3,000	12.9	4.7	77
3,300	15.6	6.0	78
3,600	18.6	7.3	79
3,800	20.7	8.0	84

TENACIOUS: The R25's semiplaning hull plowed through big wakes on Biscayne Bay without the serious roll you might expect and without taking a drop of water in the cockpit. Smaller engines are available, but the 150 hp Cummins 2.0 QSD provided enough power to cruise at almost 18 mph while burning only six gph.

THREADING THE NEEDLE: At the docks in Miami, the R25 was hemmed in by a boat whose bow protruded to its centerline and by a boat immediately to port. Using the bow and stern thrusters, we were able to leave our slip and get back in despite a stiff breeze. To tie up, the helmsman can reach out the side window and tie a spring line to a nearby cleat.